

the afternoon when we heard a scream from the river. It sounded like a dog in distress. The scream was repeated and I ran towards it. Half way, I met some men, one of them a Game Watcher of the Nilgiri Wild Life Association, and they told me that a wild dog and a pi-dog were attacking a sambar fawn and it was the deer that was making the noise.

When I got to the spot, the young deer was in the middle of a pool and the pi-dog standing guard on a rock projecting into the pool. The wild dog had decamped. On seeing us, the fawn attempted to get out, but the dog jumped in and attacked. When it tried to seize the fawn a second time, I shot it dead. The fawn had a raw patch on the inside of its right hind thigh but was otherwise all right and limped away. It was a little bigger than the first fawn we rescued and was probably the same animal!

The Game Watcher told me that he has seen wild dogs and village dogs hunting together, but once the kill is made the wild dogs take complete charge and only after they have had their fill are the pi-dogs permitted anywhere near the kill.

On 1-1-1964 a friend and I saw and photographed some wild dogs on the banks of the Moyar hydro-electric channel about 5 miles away from the scene of action described above. One of the dogs had a distinct white patch of hair on its throat, indicating mixed blood. It would be interesting to observe whether the wild dogs mate with their domesticated brethren.

THE NILGIRI WILD LIFE ASSOCIATION,
OOTACAMUND, S. INDIA,
December 23, 1964.

E. R. C. DAVIDAR

[Cases of association between wild dogs and pariah dogs have been reported previously (e.g., 1951, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 50 : 163). It would be interesting to have particulars of known cases of interbreeding.—EDS.]

3. BREEDING OF THE INDIAN WILD ASS *EQUUS* *HEMIONUS KHUR* LESSON IN CAPTIVITY

I write to report the birth of an Indian Wild Ass, *Equus hemionus khur* Lesson, 1827, on 13 August 1964, in the Maharaja Fatesingh Zoo at Baroda. As you are aware, this species is on the list of rare

animals, and I believe has never been bred in captivity. I am informing you of this as I am sure the Society will be interested.

LAXMI VILAS PALACE,
BARODA,
October 5, 1964.

F. GAEKWAD,
Maharaja of Baroda

[Harper in EXTINCT AND VANISHING MAMMALS OF THE OLD WORLD states that, between 1842 and 1849, 9 Wild Ass foals were born in the Paris Zoo. There is no record of the species breeding in captivity in India.—EDS.]

4. THE HISPID HARE [*CAPROLAGUS HISPIDUS* (PEARSON)]

In continuation of the Editorial Note (*Journal* 57:400-402) on the rarity of the Hispid Hare, Shebbeare (*Journal* 58 : 266-267) reported that it was not uncommon in parts of the Goalpara Forest Division in 1907-1911. During March-April, 1955 and 1957, the writer collected for about seven weeks around Raimona and Jamduar in the north-eastern parts of Goalpara District, Assam, bordering West Bengal and Bhutan. The species is certainly rare in this area at present because, despite the best efforts of four trained collectors to make a thorough survey of the mammalian fauna of the area, I could see only two specimens, one in the field (not collected) and a young one with a local person who had obtained it around Raimona. The young one was purchased by the leader of the German-Indian Expedition with whom the writer was then working and is now in the collection of the Hamburg Museum. The one seen in the field was seen at dusk near a shallow pool of water just on the left bank of Sankosh River about 3 km. south of Jamduar Forest Rest House. On noticing the presence of the writer at a distance of hardly 15 metres it ran away, then stopped and tried to hide itself behind stones, but finding itself too big to do so it ran up a high bank and disappeared in the bush. On inspection of the spot where it had disappeared a fresh burrow large enough to accommodate the animal was noticed. It was excavated on the top of the alluvial bank, partly below a bush about ten metres from the pool of water. The bank was well covered with tall grass and some bushes and bordered at some distance by a typical sal forest. The area was far removed from human habitation and showed numerous footprints of large and small carnivores, deer,